



REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed November 19, 2004, claims 1 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Saikawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,890,822); and claims 2-9 and 11-20 are "objected to". The foregoing rejections and objections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 2, 11, 19 and 20 have been amended. Claims 1-20 are pending and under consideration.

Claims 2 and 11 have been rewritten into independent form to be allowable. Claims 19 and 20 have been amended to depend from claims 2 and 11, respectively. Therefore, claims 3-9 and 12-20 are in condition for allowance at least due to their dependency upon claims 2 and 11 respectively.

Claim 1 recites a paper ejecting mechanism comprising "...a paper stand installed under the ejecting roller which supports the paper when the ejecting roller is rotated in an ejecting direction, and drops the paper into an output tray when the ejecting roller is rotated in a reverse direction".

Saikawa et al. discusses in FIG. 15 a discharge roller 5a which ejects a paper onto a support member 9a when rotated in a direction E, thereby the paper is maintained in a supporting position on the support member 9a (see column 9, lines 41-46). Further, in FIG. 16, the discharge roller 5a is rotated in a direction F to retard the support member, thereby causing the rotating member to rotate in a direction G (see column 9, lines 51-61).

At page 2 of the Action, the Examiner compares the "discharge roller" of Saikawa et al. to that of the Applicant's "ejecting roller" and the "support member" of Saikawa et al. to the Applicant's "paper stand". However, as illustrated in FIGS. 15 and 16 of Saikawa et al., the support member 9a is located above the discharge roller 5a.

Claim 10 recites limitations somewhat similar to claim 1.

Therefore, claims 1 and 10 patentably distinguish over Saikawa et al.

Withdrawal of the foregoing objections and rejections is respectfully requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge

the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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